GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6801
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2002
NGO`S FOR WELFARE OF THE BLIND
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `Norms deprive NGOstaff of pay` appearing in the `Hindustan Times` dated the April 16, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the NGO`s working in this field are facing great hardship to get grants from the Governmentdue to lack of transparency in the functioning of the officials entrusted with the task of examining NGO`s requests and a time schedule for clearing request; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No application has been filed by All India Confederation of the Blind(AICB) in the Court of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities with prayers seeking parity in pay with employees of government establishments. However, a fresh complaint praying for issue of directions to Govt. of India for release of additional grants in respect of the their projects for the year 1999-2000 and to implement the norms for sanction of grant-in-aid to non governmental organizations, uniformly, has been filed. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment disposed off a representation on a similar request on the directions of Delhi High Court issued in civil Writ Petition no. 2512/2000 in June 2000. Problems faced by the NGOs with the State Governments and the need to expedite inspection reports is taken up with State Governments from time to time. AICB had been sanctioned grants totaling Rs. 32.28 lacs duringthe last 3 years including Rs.13.03 lacs during 1999-2000. The extent of assistance that can be considered in any particular financial year is limited by the budgetary allocation for the Scheme for that year.

(c)&(d) No, Sir. The time schedule for clearance of requests for grant-in-aid depends, among other things, on factors such as timely receipt of requisite information/documents and inspection reports and recommendations of nodal agencies which may not always be under control of the Ministry. Subject to these constraints it is the endeavour of the Ministry to examine and decide on requests for grant-in-aid within a reasonable period of time. The process of release of grants-in-aid assistance to non- governmental organizations has been streamlined in recent years with measures such as continuous follow-up with the State Governments for expediting inspection reports, using the resources available within the Ministry for quicker inspections, strengthening of the monitoring mechanism, computerized processing of grants-in-aid cases etc.